

Maricopa County Community Services Commission

Maricopa County Human Services Department

234 N. Central, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Monday, June 27, 2005

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Chair - Councilman Fred Hull, Town of Gila Bend	Louise Moskowitz, APS
Councilman Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert	Gloria de Tevis, Valley of the Sun United Way
Councilman Steven E. Frate, City of Glendale	Marty Sonnenberg, Salt River Project
Councilwoman Kathie Farr, City of Tolleson	
Robert Morehouse, Senior Citizens Council Maricopa County	

Members Absent:

Mark Bratman, The Salvation Army	Excused
Walter Gray, St. Vincent de Paul	Excused
Terri Cruz, Chicanos por la Causa	Unexcused
Barbara Webster, Southwest Low-Income Rep.	Unexcused
Sarah Bravo-Palma, Eastside Low-income Representative	Unexcused
Councilman Hut Hutson, City of Tempe	Unexcused

Presenters/Staff/Guests Present:

Staff:

Margarita Leyvas, Community Services Division
Mindy Wakefield, Community Services Division
Virginia Sturgill Community Services Division

Presenter:

Vivian Diaz, Housing Authority of Maricopa County

Guests

Racel Aleman, Chandler CAP
Dolores Hull
Chelsea Hull
Donna Shuey
Ray Shuey
Gail Leitner, City of Avondale

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Chairman, Councilman Fred Hull.

B. Roll Call/ Introductions

Virginia Sturgill called roll. Eight of fourteen seated members were present; a quorum was established.
Gail Leitner, Avondale Councilwoman was appointed by Avondale City Council to represent Avondale on the commission. Ratification by the Commission will be added to next commission meeting agenda.

C. Excused Absence(s)

The following members were absent and asked to be excused: Mark Bratman and Walter Gray. Councilwoman Kathie Farr made a motion to excuse the absences. The motion was seconded by Councilman Frate.

Discussion followed on commission member's absences particularly members that have not attended 3 consecutive meeting and have not provided an excuse for the absence. Staff was asked to review attendance and write letters to members that have missed 3 consecutive meetings without an excused absence. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

D. Opening Prayer Louise Moskowitz led the prayer

E. Pledge of Allegiance Robert Morehouse led the Pledge of Allegiance.

F. Approval of Minutes Robert Morehouse made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 23rd meeting. The motion was seconded by Marty Sonnenberg. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

2. Business

A. Recognition of Raymond Shuey

Mr. Ray Shuey was awarded a plaque for his years of dedicated service on the Maricopa County Human Services Department Community Services Commission. On behalf of Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox, Terri Leija presented Mr. Shuey with a gift certificate. Mr. Shuey stated that he enjoyed serving on the commission and would miss everyone. He commended everyone for their dedication in serving the low-income residents of Maricopa County.

B. Directors Report

Marge Leyvas reported:

- Activities and Events staff have attended:
West Valley Human Services Alliance
Benefits Check-up Advisory Committee
DES Taxonomy Committee
NYSP (National Youth Sports Program) Advisory Meeting
Ending Hunger, Changing Lives Forum
MAG Human Services Technical Committee
NLIEC/NFFN Nation Conference
- El Paso Natural Gas Settlement – 3 community forums were held in the state. The consensus recommendation was that a fuel fund be created and administered by a private non-profit organization. The recommendation was been forwarded to David Berns, DES Director, for final decision.
- Monitoring of CAP sites was completed and reports sent. Shelters were also monitored, reports have been completed, and will be sent to the subcontracted shelters.
- New database will go live in late September.
- A CAP Director's meeting was held on May 25th
- Annual CAP Staff Policy & Procedure Training/Meeting was held June 21st. Another training will be held on June 29th for the remainder of the CAP Staff.
- On May 27th a meeting was held at the DES Director's office with Vince Wood, Assistant Director for the Division of Benefits & Medical Eligibility. Mr. Wood is standing in for the Deputy Director, Nelba Chavez, who is out on medical leave. Marge reported that she attended this meeting with Cynthia Zwick of ACAA and Moe Gallegos of the City of Phoenix. The meeting was to discuss problems with the DES/CSA contracting process. The

state CAAs had not received their contracts for FY06 and, in some cases, mid-year amendments had not been received. Marge stated that Mr. Wood was going to look into the process and would ensure that CAAs had their contracts by July 1st. Marge reported that the mid-year amendment was received on May 31st, and the FY06 contract was received on June 17th. Marge reported that the sub-contracted CAPs have been notified that a contract with DES is in place for fiscal year 06.

- SAIL staff will be relocated. The County will cease to administer the health plans effective 10/1/05. Currently SAIL is co-located with the County health plans. SAIL will need to find office space. A series of meetings are being held with Maricopa County Facilities Management Department to locate office space.
- Marge was elected Vice President of the ACAA Board of Directors.

**C. DES Director
(Invited)**

A letter of invitation was sent to DES Director David Berns to attend the June 27th commission meeting. Marge reported that she was contacted by Director Berns' office and was told that he would not be available to attend the commission meeting but the invitation would be forwarded to Mr. Vince Wood. Mr. Wood did not attend.

**D. Presentation on
Housing Authority of
Maricopa County**

Vivian Diaz, Resident Program Manager, provided information on housing programs and services. Vivian provided information on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. This program helps residents in public housing purchase a home. Residents work with a Family Social Services (FSS) coordinator to set goals, continue education, and secure employment. Residents must save money and a portion of the residents' rent is set aside for escrow funds. After completion of the 5 year program, residents are given the money to purchase a home.

Vivian provided information on Public Housing sites owned by HAMC. She also provided demographic information on families that live in public housing.

Vivian reported that HAMC partners with many organizations to provide additional services to public housing residents, such as Goodwill for training and livable wage jobs. HAMC also partners with Avondale CAP to enroll residents in Avondale's IDA program.

Vivian encouraged everyone to contact her if they are interested in a partnership with the Housing Authority.

**E. Acceptance of
Resignations**

Joe Blanton, Southwest Low-Income Representative, and Margarita Cota, Public/Elected Official-Guadalupe, have resigned from the commission. Councilman Frate made a motion to accept the resignations. Motion seconded by Councilman Morrison. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**F. Nomination and
Election of Vice
Chair**

Robert Morehouse nominated Councilman Frate to serve as Vice-Chair. Discussion followed. Motion seconded by Marty Sonnenberg. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

3. Closing

A. Board Remarks/

- Councilman Frate stated that he contacted Linda Jackson of the

Announcements

IRS regarding Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Care Credits for Glendale residents. Councilman Frate stated that he brought the information before the Glendale City Council; during the past tax season, Glendale residents received over 2 million dollars in EITC and CCC.

- Robert Morehouse reported he has been appointed Speaker of the Arizona Silver Haired Legislature.
- Marge reported that the House of Representatives is recommending a budget increase in LIHEAP funding; this increase is over 3.4 million which means that the hot weather states will get more money without reducing the allocations of the cold weather states. The bill still needs to go through the US Senate.
- Marge stated that the National Community Action Foundation reports that the House of Representatives is recommending a 50% cut in CSBG funds. This bill still needs to go to the US Senate. NCAF will provide more information later.

B. Call to the Public

None

C. Adjournment

Councilman Frate made a motion to adjourn; motion seconded by Councilman Morrison. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, August 22, 2005 at 6:00 PM